

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we are exposed to one side of the story, and are hardly ever presented with an alternative. The anti-Kerry documentary can not be passed as factual and informative to the public. It is clearly propaganda. Its purpose is to manipulate Americans into voting for George Bush in the election. The media should not support one candidate over the other. If the Democrats are not given their own space for an anti-Bush documentary (like Fahrenheit 9/11), then Sinclair has no right to show his.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.